



To: Community Representatives

From: Janyce Hedetniemi, Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Date: June 2001

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON

I want to devote my Director's notes this issue to a number of topics. The first is to acknowledge the work of the NIH Fire Department, which has been credited with two very significant "saves" in the community. On May 3, the NIH Fire Department received a Unit Citation Award from Montgomery County for its role in handling a serious hazardous materials incident at a service station in Silver Spring. This incident, which happened on November 16, 2000, involved diverting leaking gasoline from a tank truck to avoid serious danger to the public's safety. Most recently, the NIH fire personnel were instrumental in preventing the spread of fire from a home in the Luxmanor community. Please join me in commending these dedicated and brave men and women for their superb efforts.

On June 12, NIH will dedicate a lovely park in front of Building 1 to honor former Congressman Paul Rogers and on June 14, we will host a gala celebration to dedicate and name Building 50 in honor of Congressman Louis Stokes.

At the June 21 meeting of the Community Liaison Council, we will, as promised, begin anew the process to update the 1995 Bethesda Campus Master Plan. At least one meeting of each of the three Master Plan subgroups will take place this summer before the August break; please watch for notice in your mail or e-mail.

New to the Office of Community Liaison is Sharon Robinson, Program Assistant. Ms. Robinson, who joined OCL in May, handles administrative activities for my office, and she is the person to contact to arrange meetings with me. Please welcome her when you call or visit the office.

We held our first meeting to plan the 2001 NIH Community Health Forum. The date for the Forum is October 27, 2001. Community members who participated in the two focus groups on the health forum have provided a rich array of choices and ideas from which to draw in planning this, our fourth, event. Please mark the date on your calendars!

We anticipate that the Request for Proposals for the gas pipeline will be ready for distribution by the end of this month. Copies will be available in the Environmental Reading Room and will be distributed to your community representatives on the Community Liaison Council.

As always, I welcome your suggestions for improvements to the *OCL Update* and your participation in any of the events of NIH and activities of my office.

The Community Liaison Council (CLC) will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, June 21, at 4 p.m.** in Building 1, Room 151, on the NIH campus.

NIH CAMPUS NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NIH Plans to “Share the Health”

Save the date! The NIH Office of Community Liaison will hold its fourth annual community health forum, *Share the Health: An Exposition of Health Resources from NIH to Its Neighbors* on Saturday, October 27, 2001. The purpose of the event, which is planned by and for the community, is to promote health by showcasing the health resources that NIH offers to the community. Share the Health, which features information, seminars, and health screenings, is free and will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Natcher Conference Center (Building 45) on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

Plan to bring the entire family to sample the resources offered by the premier biomedical research facility in the world! Community members will have an opportunity to:

- Participate in free health screenings;
- Attend free seminars on health promotion and disease prevention;
- Collect a wealth of free information;
- Visit exhibits by NIH Institutes;
- See computer demonstrations on how to access health information on the Internet;
- Visit NIH’s Web site and its links to health information sources;
- Participate in relaxation and stress-reduction workshops;
- Take part in children’s health activities;
- Learn about volunteer opportunities;
- Hear about efforts to promote health within the community; and more.

The Natcher Conference Center is equipped with an infrared system to accommodate those who need sound amplification. Sign language interpretation will be provided. Individuals who require reasonable accommodations to participate in this event should contact Terry LaMotte via one of the methods listed above no later than October 12, 2001.

Office of Community Liaison staff are currently planning the program for this year’s event. For more information about Share the Health 2001, call Terry LaMotte or Syreeta Tate of Palladian Partners at 301-650-8660 (TTY users should call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339) or send an e-mail to tlamotte@palladianpartners.com or state@palladianpartners.com.

Focus Groups Make Suggestions for Share the Health Day

In March, community members and participants from previous health forums took part in two focus groups to discuss topics and activities to include in Share the Health 2001. These groups had a wealth of ideas and made many creative suggestions, which Office of Community Liaison staff will consider as they plan the program for this year’s event. Suggestions included:

- Plan a program that offers “something for everyone”—men, women, and children of all ages and backgrounds;
- Have a room where attendees can explore health sites on the Internet, with help available for those new to surfing the Web; and
- Provide guides to help people find their way around the Natcher Conference Center.

Suggestions for seminar topics included the following:

- Diet, exercise, and weight loss
- Alternative medicine
- Dealing with depression
- Cancer prevention
- Stress and its effects on health
- High blood pressure
- Menopause
- Dental health
- Organ transplantation
- The brain and brain injuries
- Osteoporosis
- Genetically modified food
- Laser eye surgery
- Alzheimer’s disease

Maryland Law Limits Use of Mercury

Last month, Maryland Governor Parris Glendening signed into law House Bill 75, which severely limits the sale and use of mercury and mercury-containing products in the state. Beginning October 1, 2002, the sale of mercury-containing fever thermometers to consumers will be prohibited except by prescription. The ban does not apply to fever thermometers sold or used in hospitals or doctors' offices or to digital thermometers using mercury-added button-cell batteries. Beginning October 1, 2003, no primary or secondary school—except for vocational training schools—can purchase or use elemental or chemical mercury in a classroom. The bill, entitled *Environment—Mercury and Products that Contain Mercury*, is sponsored by Delegate James Hubbard of Prince George's County. For additional information, call Delegate Hubbard's office at 301-858-3103 or visit <http://mlis.state.md.us/2001rs/billfile/HB0075.htm>.

Last month, NIH launched a Campaign for a Mercury Free NIH. For more information about this campaign, see the May 2001 issue of *OCL Update* or visit <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/nomercury>.

NIH Honored for Champion Trees

On April 29, NIH received a special Arbor Day award from Montgomery County for four trees that have been designated "county champions"



Awards are received by NIH staff and friends on Arbor Day

because they are the largest of their species in the county. The four trees include a Carolina hemlock across the street from the Natcher Building (Building 45), a red buckeye, a rare variety of horse chestnut, at North Drive and Wisconsin Avenue, a black willow near the creek behind the National Library of Medicine, and a rare golden rain tree near Building 12A.

Also in April, NIH chief of grounds maintenance Lynn Mueller received a water conservation award for his redesign of the plaza in front of the Lister Hill Center. The new design uses drought-resistant, mostly native plants. NIH was the only organization to be recognized in the Department of Health and Human Services' 2000 energy and water management awards.

NIH Updates on Landscaping Efforts

NIH Completes Tree Census

Data from a recent tree census has revealed that there are 5,548 trees with trunks at least six inches in diameter on the NIH campus. Each tree is marked with an aluminum tag indicating its size, species, and location. The campus also has about 3,000 trees with trunks smaller than six inches in diameter. Over the next year, NIH's lone arborist will count and document these trees.

Last year, more than two new trees were planted for every tree taken down; 302 new trees were planted throughout the campus, and 134 trees were removed. To commemorate Arbor Day 2000, a black walnut tree was planted behind the Natcher Building (Building 45), and this year, a butternut tree was planted. Additionally, five large pin oaks and 43 Kwanzan cherry trees were planted on Center Drive.

NIH Creek Restoration to Begin

The small stream known as the NIH Creek, which extends northeast across campus from its outfall under the corner of South and Center drives, will be overhauled within the next year or so by the grounds and maintenance section of the Division of Engineering Services, Office of Research Services (ORS). NIH staff recently completed a study of the creek and found a serious erosion problem. The Washington area's rains and heavy thunderstorms wash the NIH grounds' soft soil into the creek, which is also choked with man-made building materials such as concrete blocks. A \$700,000 project is planned to combat this problem. NIH will install sand filters on the banks of the creek to strain runoff, restore the creek to its natural appearance, and encourage wildlife.

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County to Study Stormwater Pond Installation

Montgomery County has signed a memorandum of understanding with NIH to study the installation of a regional stormwater management pond on the southeast corner of the NIH campus, near the intersection of Wisconsin and Woodmont Avenues.

If built, the pond would mitigate uncontrolled runoff in the Stoney Creek tributary of Rock Creek, according to Stella Serras-Fiotes, director of the NIH Office of Facilities Planning. Regional benefits of the proposed project would include providing runoff control for approximately 220 acres of developed land in the area, and reduction of downstream runoff velocities and associated stream-bank reduction in Stoney Creek and Rock Creek. It could also mean that another stormwater pond proposed for the northeast corner of the campus, already approved by the Community Liaison Council, could be scaled back in size or might not be needed at all.

Issues the county will consider in the study include the size and environmental implications of the proposed pond and its potential benefits and drawbacks to NIH. The county has agreed to work through the Office of Community Liaison to keep the NIH community informed of the progress and outcome of the study. Ms. Serras-Fiotes emphasized that the study is exploratory and that no decision to build the stormwater pond has yet been made.

NIH Firefighters Honored

Four NIH firefighters were among 15 Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service workers honored last month for their role in preventing injury and property damage following a serious gasoline tank truck leak in Silver Spring.



From left to right:
Montgomery County Fire Chief Roger Strock, Lieutenant Jonathan Mattingly, Master Firefighter Lori Padgett, Technician Joseph D'Ambrosio

A tank truck containing 2,600 gallons of gasoline sprang a leak as it drove into a Silver Spring service station in November 2000. A fire engine and a hazardous materials vehicle from the NIH Fire Department were among the emergency vehicles called to respond to the incident. The NIH firefighters helped construct a temporary dike to contain the leaking gasoline and a chute to divert the gasoline into the service station's underground tanks.

"The crews placed themselves at great risk to divert the leaking gasoline from the tank truck and to mitigate this incident," said Roger W. Strock, chief of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, in awarding a citation to all of the workers involved. The NIH firefighters involved in the incident were Lieutenant Jonathan Mattingly, Master Firefighter Lori Padgett, and Technicians John Bede and Joe D'Ambrosio.

Safety Antenna Sought for Metro Station

NIH has granted use of a site at the Medical Center Metro station to the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Department to erect a 30-foot, 800 MHz antenna. The antenna will be part of a radio communication system that will ensure a rapid response from emergency services in the event of a fire in the Metro system.

The pole, which will be painted brown to blend into the background of the trees and to match the color scheme developed by Metro, will barely be visible above the tree line. The antenna's wattage will be very low and the antenna will emit no more radio frequency waves than a telephone and pose no health hazards.

Parking Solution Reached

NIH-contracted construction workers who have been parking their cars on streets in the Oakmont-Ayrlawn neighborhood are now being encouraged to park at the unoccupied Bloch Building lot located at the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Oakmont Avenue. Residents have complained about the workers' noisy comings and goings and about the congestion their parked vehicles cause on narrow residential streets.

Residents Encouraged to Bring Household Hazardous Waste to NIH

Attention residents! Don't forget to bring your household hazardous waste to NIH on Saturday, June 23, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Items acceptable for disposal include insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, oil-based paint, paint thinners, solvents, used motor oil, brake fluid and antifreeze, car and household batteries, swimming pool chemicals, items containing mercury (such as thermometers and thermostats), and fluorescent bulbs. Commercial, industrial, and medical waste, explosive or radioactive material, asbestos, normal trash, and large items will not be accepted. Latex or water-based paint that is dried or solidified is not hazardous and can be disposed of with regular trash. Likewise, dry cell and alkaline batteries are no longer considered hazardous waste and can go in the regular trash.

Bring your hazardous waste to NIH Parking Lot 31 F/H at the corner of Rockville Pike and Wilson Drive. To get there, enter the NIH campus on Wilson Drive and turn right into the first parking lot. For more information, call the Division of Solid Waste Services at 240-777-6410, or visit the DSWS Web site at <http://www.mcrcycles.org/wastereduction/hhw.htm>.

Farmer's Market Returns to NIH

Every Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. now through October, the Montgomery County Farmer's Market Association offers produce, flowers, and baked goods for sale in Parking Lot 41-B on the NIH campus. In addition, Reid Orchard and the Salt River Lobster Truck bring fresh produce and seafood to the NIH campus every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking Lot 41-B is located behind the National Library of Medicine.

Mobile Mammography Screening Planned

The George Washington University (GW) Breast Care Center's mobile mammography unit is making two more visits to NIH in June and July. On June 22, 2001, the van will come to the visitor parking lot behind the Rockledge I Building, 6701

Rockledge Drive, in Bethesda, Maryland. On July 11, it will come to the front of the Natcher Building (Building 45). In both cases, hours of operation are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The National Cancer Institute recommends annual mammograms for all women aged 50 and over; women aged 40 to 50 should be screened every 1 to 2 years. Mobile mammography service is available by appointment to all NIH employees and their families, as well as to visiting scientists, contractors, and volunteers. Screenings will be conducted by a female technologist, and a board-certified radiologist specializing in mammography will interpret the films. The exam takes about 20 minutes and costs \$138. To make an appointment and to check whether GW can bill your health insurer directly, call 202-994-9999.

R&W Hosts Barbecue Benefit

The NIH Recreation and Welfare Association invites you to help raise money for Camp Fantastic by attending a summer barbecue on Tuesday, June 12, 2001. Held on the patio of Building 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the barbecue is provided by Outback Steakhouse and will be followed by ice cream courtesy of Ben & Jerry's. The Street Life Band is the featured entertainment. Camp Fantastic was founded in 1983 to give children with cancer the opportunity to experience summer camp. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 301-496-6061.

NIH Orchestra to Hold Spring Concert

The NIH Community Orchestra will perform its annual spring concert on June 9, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium of Building 10 at NIH. The concert will feature compositions by Copland, Granados, Mozart, and Vaughan Williams. Admission is free for NIH patients and their families; others are invited to donate \$5, which benefits the Patient Emergency Fund, the Children's Inn, and other NIH charities, to the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association. The NIH Community Orchestra will also perform at the Gaithersburg Library on June 27, 2001. For more information, call 301-897-8184 or visit <http://www.gprep.org/~music/nih>.

NIH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 6

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Lectures by Laureates of the Kettering, Sloan, and Mott Prizes for Cancer Research*, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH. Free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

WFLC Faces & Phases of Life Seminar Series: *Concepts for Planning and Prioritizing*, noon–1:30 p.m., Conference Room 6, 6th floor, C-wing, Building 31, NIH. Free and open to the public. For more information or to pre-register, call WFLC at 301-435-1619.

National Library of Medicine History of Medicine Seminar Series: *19th Century Hydropathic Therapeutics: Exercise as a Way to Wellness* by Dr. Nancy Dosch, 2–3:15 p.m., Conference Room B, Building 38, NIH. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-402-8878.

June 7

Office of Research on Women's Health Seminar Series: *Women and Addictive Behaviors*, 1–3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-402-1770.

June 12

Federally Employed Women—Bethesda Chapter Training Presentation: *Women's Health Issues*, noon–1 p.m., Natcher Conference Center, Rooms G1 and G2, Building 45, NIH. For more information, contact Angela Magliozzi at 301-496-1642 or by e-mail at am133m@nih.gov.

WFLC Faces & Phases of Life Seminar Series: *Office Ergonomics*, noon–1:30 p.m., Conference Room 10, 6th floor, C-Wing, Building 31, NIH. Free and open to the public. For more information or to pre-register, call WFLC at 301-435-1619.

June 13

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Structure, Function, and Regulation of NhaA, a Key Na⁺/H⁺ Antiporter for pH and Na⁺ Homeostasis* by Etana Padan, Ph.D., The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH. Free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

June 19

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series Special Tuesday Lecture: *The Population Biology of HIV Pathogenesis and the Evolution of Drug Resistance in Treated Patients*, by Roy M. Anderson, Ph.D., F.R.S., University of London, 3–4 p.m.,

Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH. Free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information about this special Tuesday lecture, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

June 20

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor and the Structural Basis of Fast Synaptic Transmission* by Nigel Unwin, Ph.D., F.R.S., MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH. Free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

June 21

Human Genome Seminar Series: *Morphants: A New Vertebrate Functional Genomics Approach* by Dr. Stephen C. Ekker, University of Minnesota Medical School, 11 a.m., Building 49, Conference Room A/B, NIH. Free and open to the public. For further information, call 301-496-8570.

June 27

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Cancer: An Unfortunate Genetic Collaboration* by Philip Leder, M.D., D.Sc., Harvard Medical School, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH. Free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

June 28

Human Genome Seminar Series: *Insertional Mutagenesis and the Genetics of Ear and Hindbrain Development in the Zebrafish* by Shawn Burgess, Ph.D., National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH, 11 a.m., Building 49, Conference Room A/B, NIH. Free and open to the public. For further information, call 301-496-8570.

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

Bethesda Hosts Grand Prix of Cycling

The fourth annual Snow Valley Bethesda Grand Prix of Cycling speeds into town on Sunday, June 17. Cyclists will compete in all-day bike racing through the Bethesda restaurant district beginning at 9 a.m. There will also be children's sprint races, bike safety activities, and appearances by the Washington Capitals and University of Maryland mascots. Registration for the children's sprint races begins at 10 a.m. at the start/finish line at the corner of Norfolk and St. Elmo Avenues. For more information, call 301-215-6660.

Free Health Seminars Available at Suburban Hospital

Suburban Hospital offers the following free community health seminars in June:

- June 6** *Pathways of Pain*
7–8 p.m., Suburban Hospital Conference Center
- June 7** *Postmenopausal Tips for Women*
1 p.m., Holiday Park Community Center
- June 14** *Nursing Homes in the 21st Century*
1 p.m., Rockville Senior Center
- June 20** *Guided Imagery for Pain Control and Healing*
7–8 p.m., Suburban Hospital Conference Center
- June 20** *Women and Heart Disease*
1 p.m., Friendship Heights Community Center
- June 21** *Common Foot Problems: Update on New Remedies and Treatments*
1 p.m., Hebrew Home of Greater Washington
- June 27** *Why Joint Replacements are Totally Hip (or Knee!)*
2:30 p.m., Suburban Hospital Conference Center

Advance registration is required. Call 301-896-3939 for more information and to register.

BAPA Presents Two Shows for Kids

There's still time to take the kids to see *Harry, the Dirty Dog*, which runs at the Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts' (BAPA) Imagination Stage through June 10. The play, recommended for children ages 4 to 8, is about a dog who runs away from home to avoid having a bath. Performances are Saturdays at 3 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 and 3 p.m. From June 16 to August 26, BAPA will present *Ferdinand the Bull*, a musical play for ages 4 to 12. Performances are on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. and at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reservations are recommended.

The Imagination Stage is located on the second level of White Flint Mall, next to Bloomingdale's, at 11301 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda, Maryland. Individual tickets for all shows are \$6.50 (\$5.50 for groups of 10 or more). For tickets and more information, call 301-881-5106.

Herb Fair at Brookside Gardens

Be initiated into the mysteries of herbs at the Brookside Gardens Herb Fair on Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10. This free event includes educational programs and demonstrations. A large variety of herbs suited for growing in the Washington area will be for sale. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Brookside Gardens is located at 1800 Glenallan Avenue in Wheaton, Maryland. For more information, call 301-949-8230.

TRY THIS WEB SITE:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nccam/camonpubmed.html>

From meditation to magnets, the popularity of unconventional medical therapies has risen sharply in recent years, despite the fact that few complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies have been proven safe and effective. Recognizing the need to provide authoritative information about CAM, two components of NIH, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), have partnered to create a free online information service about research on CAM. *CAM on PubMed*, a searchable database that contains more than 220,000 records of journal articles related to CAM research, is a subset of PubMed, a large medical literature database operated by NLM. *CAM on PubMed* will expand as more CAM research articles are published.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sickle Cell Volunteers Needed

If you have sickle cell disease (SCD), consider participating in a study that can help you and future generations. Doctors at NIH invite individuals aged 18 to 65 who have SCD to take part in important new studies at the NIH Clinical Center. There is no charge for study participation, and volunteers will be compensated. For more information, please call

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1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010), or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov>. Se habla español.

Study Seeks Healthy Women

Healthy women aged 18 to 55 and those aged 60 and older are needed for a study of ovarian function at NIH. Participation in this study will require five brief outpatient visits. Volunteers will have blood drawn and will receive an ultrasound exam and an injection of a naturally occurring hormone. Volunteers must be nonsmokers, have had a previous pregnancy, and must not be taking any drugs, including birth control pills. Compensation will be provided. For more information, please call 301-435-8201 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010), or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov> (Click on "Find a Study").

Patients with TMD Jaw Pain Sought

Doctors at NIH seek volunteers for a study of drug treatment of temporomandibular disorder

(TMD). Patients with early stage TMD will be randomly assigned to receive the study drug (celecoxib), a standard treatment drug (naproxen), or a placebo. Patients with later stage TMD will receive either the study drug (etanercept) or a placebo. If you are 18 or older and have jaw pain caused by TMD, please call 1-800-411-1222 for more information (TTY: 1-866-411-1010), or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov>.

Study of Chronic Back and Leg Pain

If you are age 18 or older and have pain in the back and leg or buttock resulting from a pinched lumbar nerve, please consider taking part in a research study to improve the treatment of chronic back and leg pain. The study is being conducted at the NIH Clinical Center. There is no charge for study-related testing or medicine. For more information, please call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010), send e-mail to prpl@cc.nih.gov, or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov>.

The OCL Update is available on our Web site at <http://ocl.od.nih.gov/>. If you would rather view this document online and not receive a printed version, please contact the OCL office at 301-496-3931 or send us an e-mail at jh69z@nih.gov. If you would like to list an upcoming event of interest to the local community, call Terry LaMotte at Palladian Partners, OCL support contractor, at 301-650-8660, or e-mail at tlamotte@palladianpartners.com.

Office of Community Liaison

National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 259
One Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-0172

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